



The Brookfielder

Ehlert Park Grand Opening Celebration



The Ehlert Park Grand Opening Celebration took place on Saturday, September 20th. The beautiful weather created the perfect backdrop for approximately 200 residents to enjoy a day of bocce, horseshoes, skating, and hot dogs.

The park, designed by Hitchcock Design Group and constructed by the Kenneth Company, includes a skate park, a new picnic area, a bocce/horseshoe court, a new baseball practice field, a new soccer/football practice field, a wide walking/biking path connecting to the rest of the park, and a parking lot and drop off area. The park includes drainage to manage stormwater after heavy rains, and incorporates green practices such as native plantings and a bioswale in drainage areas. "The park represents the synthesis of professional staff, consultants, and resident input resulting in one of the Village of Brookfield's finest assets," said Keith Sbiral, Assistant Village Manager.

The newly renovated portion of Ehlert Park, located at the intersection of Shields and Sunnyside Avenues, consists of approximately 5.7 acres and was acquired by the Village from Elementary School District #103 in 2003 for \$1.5 million, half of which was funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources "Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Program." In 2005, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources awarded the Village \$398,000 under the same program for the development of the acquired park land with recreational facilities. The park improvement totaled approximately \$1.2 million.



"The OSLAD funding that the Village of Brookfield was able to procure resulted in a beacon of progress for the Village and a first rate addition to Ehlert park. The development of Brookfield's highest quality parkland significantly adds to the Village's recreation and green space and eliminates the threat the land would be developed," said Michael Garvey, Village President.

Over 50 raffle prizes and free gifts donated by Hitchcock Design Group, the Kenneth Company, Hancock Engineering, and Totally Board of LaGrange, were given away during the event. Totally Board of LaGrange also presented a skate demonstration by local amateur skaters. The skate park has stayed open due to the cooperative weather, and will be closed for safety during the winter season. The skate park will reopen in the spring and will be available for lessons and events in 2009.

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President's Letter



Dear Brookfield Residents:

It was a busy but wonderful summer and fall in the Village. I would like to personally thank the many volunteers who worked with the Village to give us so many opportunities to enjoy the beautiful weather. From the newly revitalized Chamber of Commerce and their incredibly successful Farmers Markets and Pig Roast, to the Grand Prairie Crossing Business District's Gallery Art Walk. Many residents were able to enjoy all the incredible baseball and softball made possible by the league volunteers and coaches, not to mention our Village sponsored Concert and Movie nights in the Park. All in all, I think it is safe to say we had a great summer and fall.

The Village worked hard to finish the many construction projects that were started in 2008 and plan for even more improvements for 2009. If you have not seen the newly opened park improvements on the east side of Jaycee Ehlert Park, please take some time stop by and enjoy the facilities. In the coming weeks, the long awaited pedestrian bridge over Salt Creek at Brookfield Avenue will be installed and open to traffic.

We continue to update our new Village website. By signing up for our email Newsletter, you can receive important information about Village events and even emergency information in a more timely fashion.

As winter is definitely upon us, please take time to make yourself familiar with the parking restrictions after snowstorms that are contained in this newsletter. Our Public Works crew really does a top-notch job clearing streets when everyone moves their cars as required. One car left on the wrong side of a narrow side street can prevent the whole block from being cleared. Please remember that the ordinance is now in effect on Sundays as well.

We hope you enjoyed our Village Holiday Celebration. The Village Staff, along with our Special Events Committee and the Chamber of Commerce, worked especially hard planning the festivities for months to kick off the Holiday season Brookfield-style.

On behalf on Village Board, the Village Staff, my family, and myself, we wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2009.

Mike



Michael Garvey
Village President

Brookfield Police Department Welcomes Two New Hires

With the recent retirements from the Brookfield Police Department, two new officers have been hired to fill their voids. These officers were hired from the Brookfield Police Department's eligibility list after passing a strict background investigation.

Officer Matthew Burke was hired on July 7, 2008 and graduated from the Cook County Sheriff's Recruit Training Academy on September 15, 2008. Officer Burke is a veteran of the DuPage County Sheriff's Department where he served as a correctional officer for three years.

Officer Vincent Esposito was hired September 29th and is currently enrolled in the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy at the College of DuPage and will graduate on December 12, 2008. After graduation, Vincent entered the 12-week Field Training Program prior to being released as a certified police officer. Officer Esposito comes from a law enforcement family. His father is an officer with the Stone Park Police Department.

Snow Parking Restrictions

We would like to remind our residents that the village snow parking regulations are now in effect. During the period beginning December 1st through March 31st after two or more inches of snow has fallen in the Village of Brookfield, all vehicles must be parked on the appropriate side of the street. The ordinance is in effect from 8 AM until 4 PM, seven days a week. Please do not move your cars back until after 4 pm, even if you have seen the plows come by. They usually make several passes to make the streets as clear as possible. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the NORTH and WEST sides of the street. On Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the SOUTH and EAST sides of the street. Signs are posted near the beginning of every block and you can always call our recorded message @ 387-SNOW to confirm whether or not the parking ban is in effect.

Here Come the Plows

The goal of the Village's Snow Plan is to make roads passable and safe. This may not seem like a worthy goal when you are shoveling out the end of your driveway for the second or third time.

RESIDENT'S REQUEST ... Plow the snow so that it doesn't end up in my driveway, or plan the routes so it only happens one time. While the Village would like to accommodate that request, moving snow from the streets is a process that forces "plow spill-off" to end up in your driveway.

PLOWING THE SNOW ... Snow is plowed from the center of the roadway to the edge. Trying to direct the snow away from the more than 10,000 driveways in Brookfield is just not possible. In fact, it takes multiple passes to accomplish the job and with each pass, the spill-off ends up in your driveway.

THE GREATER THE SNOW ... the greater the driveway problems, since the length of the snow storm will determine the number of passes Village plows have to make. During a heavy, long lasting snowfall, it's not unusual for Public Works to be out for 3 to 4 days continuously.

Shoveling Tips

- When clearing the end of the driveway near the street, throw the snow to the right (as you face the street). Since the plows travel from left to right near the curbs, the snow that you remove won't end up back in your driveway.
- Clear a few feet from the edge of the curb to the left of the driveway (as you face the street). This will reduce the amount of snow that gets dumped back into the area you just shoveled.

Crime Prevention Tips

The Village of Brookfield continues to enjoy a drop in property crimes. The police department would like to remind everyone of a few tips in order to prevent any sort of crime that could occur:

- ⦿ Keep your vehicle locked. Do not leave any valuables inside the vehicle.
- ⦿ Keep your garage doors closed.
- ⦿ Develop a personal property list of all valuables including detailed descriptions of the items, values, serial numbers and photos. All of this information will assist in the possible recovery of stoled items as well as the possible apprehension of the offender.
- ⦿ Be sure the numbers on the outside of your home visible from the street.
- ⦿ Beware of the fix-it man coming to your door and soliciting work. Do not commit to anything until you have thoroughly checked them out.
- ⦿ Beware of internet check scams. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!!!!

The Village Welcomes Doug Cooper as Brookfield's New Finance Director

Mr. Cooper oversees three full-time Finance Department employees and the financial and accounting functions of the Village. "Mr. Cooper brings a solid background in municipal finance and accounting to Brookfield, having worked as both Assistant Finance Director and Finance Director for the Village of Hinsdale for the past ten years as well as holding a CPA certification. Doug will be an excellent complement to the management team put in place over the last three years," stated Village Manager Ginex.



Hiring Mr. Cooper concluded a nearly eight month nationwide search process aided by the PAR Group, LLC, and filled a vacancy in the Finance Director position. Over the past two and half years the Village has made significant accomplishments adopting timely and balanced budget and appropriation ordinances, as well as continuing the record of achieving the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Excellence in Financial Reporting Award on an annual basis. More recently, the Village has started a goal setting and strategic planning process to aid immediately in planning for the 2009 budget process as well as future long term strategic planning for financial sustainability. "Adding a Finance Director with the depth of municipal finance knowledge that Mr. Cooper brings to Brookfield will immediately and exponentially assist in the aggressive financial planning efforts currently underway by the Village Board and put the Village in a strong position to prepare for the future," stated Village Treasurer and Assistant Village Manager Keith Sbiral.

Mr. Cooper graduated from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL in 1985 with a BS in Accountancy. He worked for 10 years in public accounting performing audits for municipal clients before joining the ranks of municipal employment. Coming from a similarly-sized non-home rule community, Mr. Cooper already has a strong working knowledge of applicable rules and regulations. Prior to his ten years with the Village of Hinsdale, Mr. Cooper was the Business Manager for the Winnetka Park District. Mr. Cooper lives in LaGrange, where he enjoys spending quality time with his family. "I'm excited about the opportunity to build on my career in a community so close to home," said Mr. Cooper. "I learned a lot in Hinsdale, and I am looking forward to bringing that expertise to serve the Village of Brookfield."

Brookfield's First Citizen's Police Academy

The Brookfield Police Department is hosting its very first "Citizen's Police Academy (CPA)." The Citizen's Police Academy is open to all citizens and business owners in the Village of Brookfield, 18 years of age or older. Applicants should be in good health; however, no physical activity is required.

The goals of the Citizen's Police Academy are:

- * Bring a greater understanding of the role of a police officer
- * Develop a trusting partnership with the community
- * Expand the knowledge of laws and police procedures
- * Enhance involvement with the community and police department

Some of the topics that will be covered in class are:

- * Self-Defense
- * Traffic Stops
- * Terrorism
- * Firearms
- * Investigations
- * Criminal Law and Patrol Techniques
- * Auto Theft
- * SWAT

The CPA meets every Thursday night for ten weeks. The first class began January 8, 2009 and ends March 12, 2009. Classes will run from 6:30pm – 9:30pm at the Police Department, 8820 Brookfield Avenue. Completion of the CPA does not grant individuals police powers, but will provide an informative overview of the fundamentals of police operations.

Anyone interested in participating in the CPA can obtain an application in person at the police department 24 hours a day or by visiting the Village website www.villageofbrookfield.com and downloading an application. Application must be returned to the police department in person. There is no cost for participation. A routine background check will be conducted on all applicants. Additionally, a waiver of liability must be signed by each participant. If you would like more information on this program, please contact Officer David Kudla (708) 485-1565 at the Brookfield Police Department. Space in the Citizen's Police Academy is limited and participation will be at the discretion of the Brookfield Police Department.

Brookfield Takes a Bold Step Towards A Brighter Economic Future

In 2004, the Village of Brookfield worked together to create and adopt the 2020 Master Plan. The Master Plan outlined possible tools and strategies to improve retail centers in Brookfield, including the adoption of a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District. We can be proud that in 2008, the community came together again to take another bold step towards a brighter economic future.

On September 8, 2008 the Village Board passed a series of ordinances adopting and implementing a TIF District for Ogden Avenue. The TIF District is a tool that gives the Village the opportunity to assist in major redevelopment projects on Ogden Avenue, in the event an owner is ready to redevelop their property.

For example, if a developer is interested in buying a property and constructing a new building for a restaurant or small retail establishment, there are many costs that make redevelopment difficult to achieve. In many cases, developers need to buy more than one lot to make a site large enough to build on. Many sites have underground contamination requiring costly clean-up. Most sites would require demolition of obsolete buildings. There are many other communities where properties can be developed without these added costs. The TIF gives the Village the opportunity to defray eligible costs like these for qualified developments to encourage development in Brookfield, instead of a neighboring community. Adoption of the TIF was the first step in the Village's 23-year commitment to implement the TIF and improve Ogden Avenue.

Unlike many TIF Districts throughout the state, Brookfield's TIF was recommended for approval unanimously among all affected taxing bodies, including all School Districts. The overwhelming support for the TIF District and avid participation in public meetings made it possible to complete the review and adoption process within one year, while the process can take years in other communities.

During a time of economic difficulty, the timing of the TIF adoption is ideal as it allows time for the Village's TIF policies to be clarified and time for increment (the TIF fund) to build. As a result, when property owners or developers decide that they are ready to redevelop their properties, the Village will be in a position to evaluate projects without slowing them down. Then next steps in this long, but exciting, process include clarification of the TIF policy and completing several administrative tasks related to implementing the TIF.

Redevelopment on Ogden Avenue will take time to achieve - as always, redevelopment is based on a property owner's desire and ability to do so - but the adoption of the TIF will make it more possible to occur. Not only does the TIF encourage a stronger economic base, a broader tax base, job creation, and private investment; as Ogden Avenue improves, the TIF will also stimulate investment in areas beyond Ogden Avenue and throughout Brookfield, bringing improvement safely, health, and quality of life to Brookfield residents, visitors, and business owners.

2008 Infrastructure Projects

The Village of Brookfield had a busy year upgrading our aging infrastructure. Projects that were completed included, street, sewer and water line improvements, the paving of the Village Hall Commuter Parking Lot, residential and commercial alley re-construction, and improvements to our Prairie Avenue Train Station. Additionally, the Village partnered with the West Central Municipal Conference (WCWC) and IDOT to resurface two main roadways within our boundaries. The WCWC supplied Brookfield with \$209,000 in Federal Funding to resurface Washington Avenue from Golf to Prairie and the Village partnered with IDOT in the re-surfacing of Ogden Avenue within our boundaries.

2008 Street Improvements

\$1,554,000

Garfield - Prairie to Maple

3100 Blocks of Vernon & Oak

Southview - Arden to Woodside

3700 Block of Forest/Widened & Improved

Washington Avenue

\$349,000/\$209,000 in Federal Funding

Special Alley Assessments

Four Residential Alleys

Two Commercial Alleys

Metra Grant Projects

\$200,000 in Grant Funding

Village Hall Commuter Lot Resurfacing

Prairie Avenue Train Station Improvements

Water Main & Sewer Replacements

4200 Block of Grove - Sewer Pipe Replacement

Prairie Avenue - Ogden to Windemere

Upgraded the 6" watermain to an 8"

Special Projects

New village entry signs

2008 - 2009 Winter Forecast

Similar to last year's long and difficult winter, this upcoming winter season has been challenging. The salt shortages impacting the Chicagoland area last year have had a continuing impact this year with salt mine production unable to keep up with demand in restocking depleted supplies. Vendors are warning of salt shortages and there have been dramatic price increases impacting municipalities and private companies alike. Brookfield, like most municipalities, participates in the State of Illinois Joint Purchase program for salt. The cost for salt last year under the State program was \$38.62 per ton while this year it will be \$138.52 per ton for Brookfield.

The Village Board recently passed a resolution, similar to other municipalities throughout the Chicagoland area, requesting that the Illinois Attorney General investigate the salt prices in the State of Illinois to determine if the pricing has been manipulated in some fashion.

In order to conserve the supply of salt, the Village will first focus on main roads, along with curves, hills, overpasses, intersections, and then side streets. We will also be mixing salt with sand to help stretch the material and provide tire traction.

Despite the shortage of salt, the Village remains committed to providing safe roadways for Brookfield residents and visitors. In order to help supplement the standard snow and ice control efforts, the Village will be conducting additional plowing and will be utilizing newly purchased equipment to introduce anti-icing strategies on a trial basis. Anti-icing is the application of liquid salt brine onto roads prior to a snow event in order to prevent a bond from forming between the snow/ice and the roadway. This creates a situation where the snow and ice is easier to plow away, resulting in a reduction of salt material and labor costs.

One positive result of less salt being used throughout the Chicagoland area is the beneficial environmental impact of using less salt reduces the amount of damage to trees, grass, and shrubs adjacent to the roads. It also reduces the chloride content of run-off that goes into lakes and streams.

The Village asks that you please take extra caution and be aware of the conditions on the roadways throughout the Northern Illinois region this winter season. Be sure to tune into local weather forecasts, give yourself extra time for traveling, increase the intervals between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you, and reduce your speed.

Warm Up and Save Money This Winter

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average American household spends over \$1900 a year on energy bills, and almost half of that amount goes to heating and cooling your home! You can reduce your energy bills and increase the comfort of your home at the same time with a few simple energy efficiency improvements.

- Replace your furnace's air filter. A dirty filter makes your furnace work harder to provide the same amount of energy! Furnace filters are easy to replace and can be purchased at a home improvement store for about \$15.
- Replace your thermostat with a digital thermostat if you do not have one already. A digital thermostat can be programmed to automatically reduce the temperature while you are asleep or while you are not home, saving energy usage for when you need it. Thermostat installation should be done by someone who has knowledge of basic electrical wiring, and does not require a building permit. Digital thermostats can be purchased at a home improvement store for approximately \$35.
- Insulate unfinished attics to keep warm air from escaping the house. Any insulation work with a cost of over \$500 requires a building permit.

For more tips on saving energy in your home, visit www.energystar.gov. Remember that if you are replacing your furnace this winter, you need a building permit and your technician must be registered with the Village. In the event of an emergency breakdown this winter, you may replace the furnace and must apply for your building permit within one business day following the replacement. If you have any questions about regulations for energy improvements, please feel free to contact the Building and Planning Department and speak with an inspector at (708) 485-7344 option 3.

Firefighters Recognized by State

On May 15, 2008, Brookfield Fire Department members Captain Edward Bermann, Lieutenant Robert Shamasko, Firefighter Paramedic Mathew Dubik, Firefighter Paramedic Frank Oliver, and Firefighter Paramedic Patrick McBrien were recognized by the Office of the State Fire Marshal for bravery and exceptional performance in the line of duty during the Fifteenth Annual Firefighting Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony held in Springfield. These five men were honored for their actions taken during a fire that occurred at a one story, residential, single family dwelling in Brookfield on November 30th, 2007.



During this fire, McBrien located a fire victim trapped in the bedroom of the residence. Heavy smoke from the well advanced fire created zero-visibility conditions within the home. McBrien handed the victim to Dubik who was positioned in the hallway just outside the bedroom. Bermann was also searching inside the residence and assisted Dubik in removing the victim from the hallway to outside the residence. Dubik then initiated and continued medical care on the victim in Brookfield Ambulance 424 until it arrived at Loyola Hospital. Shamasko and Oliver provided hose line protection for the search crew. They initiated an interior attack on the fire from the front entrance of the home. They continued an interior attack and advanced the hose to the rear entrance extinguishing heavy fire in the living room, dining room, kitchen, and basement.

Dubik & McBrien received the Medal of Valor. Bermann, Shamasko, & Oliver each received the Firefighter Excellence Award. In the photo pictured from the left are: Firefighter Paramedic Patrick McBrien, Captain Edward Bermann, Firefighter Paramedic Matt Dubik, Lieutenant Robert Shamasko, and Firefighter Paramedic Frank Oliver.

Train Station Improvements

Metra has finished constructing improvements on the north side of the railroad tracks at Congress Park Station. These improvements included the installation of stormwater drainage improvements as well as the construction of a concrete sidewalk and asphalt walkway to provide pedestrians access from the intersection of Morton Avenue and Southview Avenue to the train station.

Metra also provided the Village with a grant to make several improvements to the Brookfield Train Station. The improvements include new landscaping and a sprinkler system on the south side of the station, as well as new sections of walkways, stairs, and railings. The improvements will also include a new newspaper box on the south side of the station and a set of bicycle stands on the north side of the station. While some of the work for this project is already underway, the entire project will be completed during the spring construction season.



Left: Congress Park Station Walk

Right: Prairie Station Improvement





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4th Annual Battle of the Bands

The Village of Brookfield and A Sound Education will be hosting their **4th Annual Battle of the Bands** on Sunday, May 17th, from noon to 6 pm at Kiwanis Park. Bands will be competing for recording time at Vital Music Recording Studio and a performance at the Village of Brookfield Independence Day Celebration. Top bands may also have the chance to move on to the regional and state competitions.

As of May 17, 2009, all band members must be under the age of 21. Each band member under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian signature on all applicable registration materials in order to participate.

Completed application form, Demo CD or cassette, typed copy of song lyrics, and \$25 application fee must be received by March 27, 2009. Applications will be available at some local schools, the Brookfield Recreation Department and A Sound Education beginning December 15th.

If you have any questions, contact the Recreation Department at 708-485-1528.

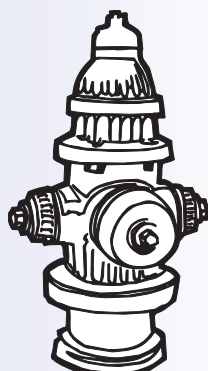
Tots Prep Classes

Registration for Brookfield residents for the Fall 2009 Tots Prep programs will be held on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Recreation Hall, lower level of the Municipal Building. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. and a lottery drawing for numbers will begin at 7:00 p.m. Non-resident registration will begin Monday, February 9, 2009 during regular office hours.

At this time, a \$25.00 non-refundable (refundable ONLY if we must cancel a class) deposit will be required along with a copy of your child's birth certificate. Children must be 3 years of age by August 31, 2009 for the 3-year old program and 4 years of age by August 31, 2009 for the 4-year old program. For more information contact the Recreation Department at 708-485-1474.

Help Keep The Hydrants Clear

When the fire alarm sounds, every moment is precious. Help keep the fire hydrants clear and visible. Remove snow from around hydrants.



Avoid Frozen Water Meter Costs

Keep the area in which your water meter is located above freezing temps. If it is in a crawl space or behind a wall, consult a plumber as to how to keep it from freezing.

